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# The Daily Gamecock, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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## WEATHER

### Friday

80° 66°

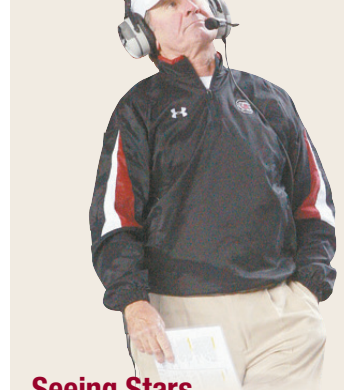
### Saturday

75° 50°

### Sunday

72° 52°

## INSIDE BLITZ

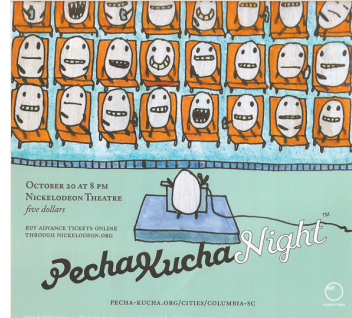


### Seeing Stars

South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier is trying to figure out how to solve USC's recent woes against the Vanderbilt Commodores.

See page 1B

## MIX



### Pecha Kucha

Innovative, creative gathering at Nickelodeon Theatre brings together local creative talents to discuss their works.

See page 6A

## VIEWPOINTS



Ryan Quinn

Second-year  
print journalism



Marilynn Joyner

Second-year  
English student

### Tete a tete

What's the deal with Starbucks? A substantial coffee go-to or little more than an overexposed label?

See page 4A

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## ONLINE EXCLUSIVE BLITZ



### Vanderbilt Preview Video

Sports Editor Chris Cox breaks down Saturday's game with Justin Fabiano and Mike Wadsworth of Capital City Sports.

Online @  
www.DailyGamecock.com



Scott Fowler / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Delta Zeta sorority sisters gather to work on their float for Homecoming Wednesday evening.

# Parade showcases student-built floats

## Homecoming tradition back after three-year absence

Chelsey Seidel  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

At the beginning of Homecoming week, many student organizations gathered on the intramural field on Greene Street to work feverishly on their Homecoming floats for today's parade.

The noise of sawing could barely be heard over the music as directions to "nail this" and "cut that" were shouted out to various teammates, everyone wanting their float to be the best.

Float building, once a Homecoming tradition, is back this year by popular demand, requires organizations to work in pairs, designing and building a float that coincides with the "Anchors Away" theme within a designated seven-hour period.

While not a part of Homecoming since 2006, when it was ceased due

to complaints from local residents about students building their floats on empty lots with no permit and making too much noise, it is back and the competition is fiercer than ever before.

Pi Kappa Alpha and Alpha Chi Omega's float will feature a boat sailing on a garnet sea, with a big sail and "Carolina Gamecocks" written on the side. "My mom and I came up with it. I'm excited to see it," said Brittany Boyer, Float Chair and third-year sports and entertainment management student.

Alpha Delta Pi and Sigma Phi Epsilon will be presenting a pirate ship theme at this afternoon's parade. As the girls of ADPi work hard on decorations, Matt Barnhill, a second-year mechanical engineering student, makes sure everything is sturdy and ready for the final changes.

"A lot of hard work went into this," said Barnhill. "I stayed up all night building it so hopefully it does well."

Tri Delta and Kappa Alpha's design puts a different twist on the

"Anchors Away" theme. Their float will include a giant oyster with Cocky inside holding a pearl.

"The pearl is supposed to represent Tri Delt and KA," said Homecoming committee member and second-year management student Carson Fraser. "The idea we are going for is that USC is the pearl of the SEC."

During the float building madness, Jeff Hunter, DJ for Homecoming and well-known sound man for USC, keeps the students motivated and energized as they create their float masterpieces. Hunter has done sound for the cheerleaders and football games for 17 years.

"I get to see them being built and I love it," Hunter said. "It reminds me of the days when I was back in high school. This is like Christmas for the sound man."

All in attendance for the Homecoming Parade today at two o'clock will be able to see all seven of the floats and pick their favorite.

Comments on this story?

E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu

## Cockfest



Scott Fowler / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fireworks explode at the end of Cockfest, the University's annual Homecoming pep rally. Around a thousand students attended the event at Williams-Brice Stadium to celebrate everything Carolina, and they were entertained with performances from Cocky, two Columbia bands and the USC cheerleaders. The Carolina Girls basketball dance team, Cocktails and Sound Check a capella groups also performed at the evening's events. Student Body treasurer Ebbie Yazdani was the MC for the pep rally. Homecoming continues today with a parade on campus at 2 p.m. on Greene Street and the annual step show at 8 p.m. at the Carolina Coliseum.

# Study abroad sees applicants increase

## Programs have remained popular despite economy

Hunter Hardinge  
STAFF WRITER

England, Australia, New Zealand, Spain. With so many places to visit, how does a student choose where to study abroad?

The USC Study Abroad office not only helps you in your decision on where you want to study abroad, but the also guide you in deciding which program best fits.

"The study abroad advisors are here to help you in your choice and find out if study abroad is right for you. We encourage students to talk with us before starting the process," said Elise Hammonds, the assistant director of the Study Abroad office.

The first step in the process is scheduling a meeting with a peer study abroad advisor. These are students who have studied abroad and they can give you insight into what is it really like.

The next step involves making an appointment with a study abroad advisor to talk about location, programs, financial, and classes.

"The second step is important because we help students narrow down where they actually want to go to three countries. We also tell them about the different programs options including the Global Exchange/Direct and the Global Partner programs. Students should talk over everything with mom and dad before making any kind of decision," Hammonds said.

The Global Exchange/Direct program sends students to different universities around the world, which can be found on the study abroad Web site. The great thing about the Global Exchange/Direct program is students in-state and out of state receive in-state tuition to USC while abroad.

The Global Partner programs are affiliate programs that offer students opportunities to study abroad at many more locations. These programs can also be found on the study abroad Web site.

"I studied through the Direct Exchange Program in Brisbane, Australia last spring. It was the best decision by far I have ever made. I had the best

experiences and almost didn't want to come back," said Liana Kloss, a second-year public relations student.

After choosing a program and a location, students must complete an application. If you choose to use a Global Partner program, you need to fill out an application for them as well as for USC.

The application does vary depending on what program you choose. Make sure to stand out because some of the exchange programs are competitive.

"The UK exchange programs are very competitive and so are some of the business schools. Make sure to be interesting and really be personable in the seven questions that you need to answer," Hammonds said.

Deadlines are very important so make sure to know when certain paper work is due. The deadline for the Global Partner programs is open Nov. 15. After receiving notification of which program you have been accepted to, there is more paper work that includes financial questions, a meeting with your academic advisor, and two orientations.

"The orientations were helpful because they talked about general knowledge of health and safety as well as how to respect the different cultures," Kloss said.

Even with the economic crisis, study abroad had seen an increase in the number of applicants. For Spring 2009, there were a total of about 100 applicants with Spring 2010, pulling in about 300 applicants.

"The numbers have increased so much. We believe that it is because students now know about the in-state tuition," Hammonds said.

With so many choices of location to chose from it is also important that students not rush the process.

"I would really suggest starting early with the process. I started early and I went through a Global Partner and because I started early I ended up being able to get free airfare to study in Spain," said Emily Keane, a fourth-year international studies student.

For more information on Study Abroad, visit their Web site at www.sa.sc.edu/sa or call (803) 777-7557.

Comments on this story?

E-mail sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu



David Walters / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Study Abroad's Assistant Director Ellie Hammond stresses the importance of deadlines and research before traveling.



CALENDAR

**What:** Doughnuts for Diabetes  
**When:** 11 a.m.  
**Where:** Russell House Patio  
**Cost:** Free

**What:** Homecoming Parade  
**When:** 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Greene Street  
**Cost:** Free

**What:** Study Abroad Exchange Student Orientation  
**When:** 2:30 p.m.  
**Where:** RH, Room 302  
**Cost:** Free

**What:** Alpha Lambda Delta meeting  
**When:** 3:30 p.m.  
**Where:** RH, Room 315  
**Cost:** Free

**What:** Homecoming Step Show  
**When:** 8 p.m.  
**Where:** Carolina Coliseum  
**Cost:** Free

SUNDAY

**What:** Hill of the Lord  
**When:** 11 a.m.  
**Where:** RH Theater  
**Cost:** Free

**What:**Sunday Night Shack  
**When:** 2 p.m.  
**Where:** Nursing 133  
**Cost:** Free

SPORTS SCHEDULE

**VOLLEYBALL**  
Mississippi  
Today  
Volleyball Competition Facility  
7 p.m.

**FOOTBALL**  
Vanderbilt  
Tomorrow  
Williams-Brice Stadium  
7 p.m.

**SOCCER**  
Florida International  
Tomorrow  
Miami, Fla.  
7 p.m.

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LOCAL & WORLD NEWS

LOCAL

Union man stores dynamite

**UNION** — Authorities say a South Carolina man, fearful that explosive materials in a dead relative's home might fall into the wrong hands, loaded them into his truck and drove 80 miles to another county to turn them in.  
Union County Sheriff David Taylor said Thursday the man found materials including dynamite and black powder in his deceased uncle's home.  
Taylor says the man drove Wednesday to downtown Union to surrender the materials because he lived there and knows him. Authorities closed streets in the area until the explosives could be removed.  
Lexington County Sheriff's Maj. John Allard says the man's uncle had been a military enthusiast and died within the past week. Taylor says none of the items were illegal but it wasn't a good idea to transport them.

NATIONAL

Feds arrest hundreds in raid

**WASHINGTON** — In the largest single strike at Mexican drug operations in the U.S., federal officials on Thursday announced the arrests of more than 300 people in raids across the country aimed at the newest and most violent cartel.  
La Familia has earned a reputation for dominating the methamphetamine trade and displaying graphic violence, including beheadings. U.S. officials said the cartel, based in the state of Michoacan of southwestern Mexico, has a vast network pumping drugs throughout the United States, specializing in methamphetamine.  
The arrests took place in 38 cities, from Boston to Seattle and Tampa, Fla., to St. Paul, Minn., in 19 states.  
Attorney General Eric Holder pledged to keep hitting La Familia and the cartels responsible for a wave of bloodshed in Mexico. He said the U.S. would attack them at all levels, from the leadership to their supply chains reaching far into the United States.  
"To the extent that they do grow back, we have to work with our Mexican counterparts to cut off the heads of these snakes, to get at the heads of the cartels, indict them, try them, if they're in Mexico, extradite them to the United States," Holder said at a news conference.  
Michele Leonhart, who heads the Drug Enforcement Administration, said La Familia's power has grown in part due to its quasi-religious background. DEA officials say the cartel professes a "Robin Hood mentality" of aiding the poor by stealing from the rich. Some drug proceeds are used to for the poor, according to investigators.

INTERNATIONAL

Protesters invade BBC center

**LONDON** — Anti-fascist protesters broke into the BBC's west London headquarters on Thursday ahead of a far-right party leader's appearance on a leading political debate show.  
Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the BBC Television Center in an increasingly rowdy rally against British National Party chief Nick Griffin, who is due to appear on the broadcaster's "Question Time" program. At one point about 25 people breached a police cordon and ran into the center's lobby.  
BBC footage showed some being pulled across the floor by their arms and legs by security. The broadcaster said the protesters were "escorted promptly" from the building.  
"Shame on the BBC!" one female protester yelled as she was being dragged out.  
Scotland Yard said three officers were injured in the protests, and two people were arrested for alleged violent disorder.  
The BBC later broadcasted footage of Griffin arriving in the building and taking his place on the "Question Time" panel to scattered applause. Justice Secretary Jack Straw, a senior member of the governing Labour Party, was seen sitting across from Griffin on the show's panel.  
"Question Time" gathers Britain's leading politicians, journalists and other public figures to discuss questions from a studio audience.

— The Associated Press

PIC OF THE DAY



David Walters / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fourth-year English student Laura Rizer learns how to build soft light in photography or videography with help from Heidi Mehlretter in JOUR 463.

WEIRD HEADLINES

Man Busted for Being Naked at Home

A Va. man was busted for indecent exposure after he was caught in the buff. In his own home. Alone.  
Eric Williamson, 29, got up at 5:30 a.m. Monday and went to the kitchen to make some coffee. He was naked, but he was alone in the Springfield house, so he didn't think it mattered.

Man pleads guilty to DWI in motorized La-Z-Boy.

**DULUTH, Minn.** — A Minn. man has pleaded guilty to driving his motorized La-Z-Boy chair while drunk. A criminal complaint says 62-year-old Dennis LeRoy Anderson told police he left a bar in the northern Minn. town of Proctor on his chair after drinking eight or nine beers.

Cops: Son drove as mom made heroin deliveries.

**GLOUCESTER, Mass.** — A woman was arrested and accused of taking her 23-year-old son along with her on trips to buy and sell heroin. Nancy Fulford pleaded not guilty Tuesday in Gloucester District Court to charges of possession of heroin and distributing heroin. Her son, Timothy Fulford, was charged with knowing where heroin was kept.

Study: McCain Voters Lost Testosterone

Young men who voted for John McCain lost more than a presidential election last November. A study says their testosterone level plummeted.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- B.C. 42**  
Marcus Junius Brutus, a leading conspirator in the assassination of Julius Caesar, commits suicide after his defeat at the second battle of Philippi.
- 1921**  
In the French town of Chalons-sur-Marne, an American officer selects the body of the first "Unknown Soldier" to be honored among the approximately 77,000 United States servicemen killed on the Western Front during World War I.
- 1971**  
Walt Disney World opens in Orlando, Fla., 16 years after Disneyland opened in Anaheim, California. Disney World, featuring rides and characters from Disney's beloved movies, would later include Epcot Center —which opened in 1982— based on Walt Disney's vision of a Utopian planned community.
- 1983**  
A suicide bomber drives a truck packed with explosives into the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 U.S. military personnel. That same morning, 58 French soldiers were killed in their barracks two miles away in a separate suicide terrorist attack.
- 1998**  
Dr. Barnett Slepian is shot to death inside his home in Amherst, N.Y., by an anti-abortion radical, marking the fifth straight year that a doctor who was willing to perform abortions in upstate New York and Canada had been the victim of a sniper attack.

THIS WEEK THEY LEARNED THE IMPERFECT VERBS IN ITALIAN.  
STUDIED THE POLITICS OF THE EU. WORKED ON AN  
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING PROJECT AND MADE GNOCCHI IN A  
FOUR-CHEESE SAUCE.

**AND YOU?**

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Energy Star bad swap for clunker appliances

Need to chuck your junky washing machine? Well, consumer, you may be in luck. After the success of the C.A.R.S. program, the Obama administration is moving onto home appliances.

That's right, economic stimulus funds are now being brought home. South Carolinians will reap the benefits, with \$4 million of the state's allotted \$300 million in stimulus funds to be used in the form of rebates for the purchase of appliances with Energy Star certification.

Now, at surface level, this seems like a great move. For buying a new home appliance, consumers will get \$50 to \$500 off its price, and appliance stores will recycle old ones. Seems as big a win-win situation as Cash For Clunkers, right?

Well, that's until you consider that Energy Star appliances may not be as efficient as that shiny star on the label suggests."

Environmental Protection Agency found that the Energy Star program's claims of greenhouse gas reduction are inaccurate and that their rating system was outdated and inefficient. Other agencies have made similar claims, and the Department of Energy was required in 2006 to tighten standards on the program (which won't be done until 2011).

Using stimulus funds to make households more energy efficient is a good thing, no doubt. But if consumers are trading in their old appliances for ones that may not be much more efficient, what is the point? Chucking your old ice chest is only worth the trouble if the new one isn't a clunker. If consumers can't be guaranteed that they are getting greener, cleaner appliances, then using government funds to buy them is a waste.

So trading in your clunker of a home appliance may get you some cash, but there is no guarantee that you aren't going to get a clunker back.

Tête à Tête

Starbucks running local coffee houses out of business with bland, monotonous coffee and pretentious atmosphere in every store

Starbucks great company offering appealing coffee in many convenient locations; brand consistently delicious

One of my favorite activities involves reading a copy of the Free Times sitting in Cool Beans and sipping a cup of iced coffee. It feels like I'm truly a Columbia native when I'm drinking that sweet nectar and reading the Rant and Rave section. It feels like I truly fit in. I thought many others agreed with me. But I was wrong.

I opened the Free Times one day to see that its readers had voted Starbucks the best place for coffee. I then read a complaint from a writer about Starbucks always getting picked over Immaculate Consumption and other fine local coffee houses. It was one of moments that are so surprising that you spit out all of your coffee. But Cool Beans is so good that I couldn't do it; I finished my drink, went to Starbucks, ordered a coffee there and then spit that out. Then I handed over the fifty bucks I owed them for it.

Starbucks sucks. It's named after a boring character in that most boring of all American literature, Moby Dick. I think that the founders were trying to capture the monotony of whaling within the monotony of their corporate franchise. I don't have to read Moby Dick, but every time I turn around I have to look at another Starbucks. I'm constantly checking my rear to make sure that no one has built a Starbucks on it too. I think this is because whales are endangered, but the population of saps never runs dry.

It's funny how Starbucks has exotic names for the sizes of their bland coffee. Short, Tall, Grande and Venti. But no matter what size I get, it's always a Venti disappointment.

"But Ryan, no one gets the regular coffee!" you say. "Why not try a frappuccino!?"

Well, if I wanted ice cream, I would just go to Marble Slab in the Russell House. That tastes better, and it might even cost less than Starbucks.

Is their whipped cream lined in gold? Why do people pay so much for such tasteless coffee? It's like I have to give up a kidney for a mocha, which I guess is OK for Starbucks fans who've already killed their kidneys with the tons of sugar in the coffee. I'll just go to Wendy's and get a dollar-fifty Frostee. I can even dip my fries in that without anyone looking at me funny.

Even worse than the coffee at Starbucks is the atmosphere. Oh, cool quotes on my coffee cups and Dave Matthews Band CD's on sale! Let me bust out my Mac and start blogging about how great this place is! By the way, Starbucks has a partnership with both MSNBC and Apple. That's why every time I smell their coffee it reeks "liberal," which is pretty bad considering I voted for Obama.

The corporation is known for driving out local competition by buying them out and operating stores at a loss. If Columbians don't start appreciating their local coffee houses, they're going to lose them, probably to Starbucks.



Ryan Quinn  
Second-year  
print journalism  
student



Marilyn Joyner  
Second-year  
English  
student

I'm sure all of you have had a sip of Starbucks coffee. So if you have, what was the first thing you thought? Well, the first thing I thought was, "This is delicious." I never thought coffee could taste so good.

My parents drank coffee constantly, and at first I thought coffee was an older generation's trend that people become addicted to, until I had my own sip back in my teenage years. Starbucks was actually the place where I had my first taste of coffee, and now I'm hooked.

That's just my opinion on how the coffee tastes. I'm not an expert on every coffee shop in America and how each of their blends taste, but I do know that the majority of people favor Starbucks. It's obvious because they seem to be popping up everywhere due to growth and popularity. So, why is America so hooked on this company?

Well, Starbucks is everywhere these days. It seems as if there is one for every two-mile radius, no matter where you go. Here, on campus, there is one at the bookstore, one at the Colloquium and soon there will be more.

Starbucks is also very convenient for people because of its open workspace. It is a great place to gather with friends for a study session, read a book or browse the Web with free Wi-Fi. Starbucks includes this community environment that is comfortable and soothing, rather than just serving coffee. Now, other local shops do have this atmosphere as well, but you are more likely to be surrounded by friends at Starbucks because of its popularity.

Also, just like me, people get hooked on Starbucks. Every time I go, I know that my white chocolate mocha will taste exactly the same, and I know the employees will make it just the way I like it. I don't have to venture to another coffee place and hesitate to buy something when I don't know whether or not it will taste the same as Starbucks. Everyone has that specific type of coffee or tea that they continuously get at Starbucks. This is what makes Starbucks so addicting.

So, if you have never had a cup at Starbucks before, join the conformity. You will never know what you're missing until you have a sip.

What do you want to see in Tete a Tete?  
Email us your suggestions at  
sagckview@mailbox.sc.edu!

Fixing Bowl Championship Series requires league movement

Top, bottom performers switching would be best

A real solution to the BCS mess: Moving leagues in and out of the BCS makes more sense than playoffs.

People have been complaining for quite some time now about the Bowl Championship Series' system of choosing a national champion, but no one has come up with a good alternative.

Many solutions have been offered up, from eight team playoffs to a play-in game, but all of them have one of two problems.

First, the BCS bowl system is a moneymaking machine. There is a lot more at stake in bowl season than college football. During the few weeks before and after New Year's, the cities in which bowl games are played get an extra boost to their economies that they otherwise would not receive.

Second, opponents of a playoff system in college football say that the BCS system

makes every game of the season count. If any sort of playoff system were implicated, teams would not have the incentive to go out and win every game they play.

The biggest problem with the BCS system is that non-BCS schools have a very unlikely chance of playing for the national championship - even if they go undefeated, i.e. Utah in '08, '09.

So the question remains: How do we include non-BCS schools in the national championship hunt without changing the BCS system of bowl games? The answer lies in English Premier League soccer.

Basically, this is how the system works. There is the top league, the Premier League and a number of lower leagues. Teams who finish at the bottom of the Premier league fall into a lower league while those teams in the lower leagues that finish at the top move into the Premier League.

What college football should do is have

this sort of system, except instead of teams moving into different leagues, the leagues themselves should move in and out of the BCS. A radical idea, I know, but I promise it can work.

The way we tell which leagues to move up and which leagues to move down would deal with performances of the teams within each league.

First, we would take the total records of each team in a respective league, add them together and have the sum be the league record. Next, we would look at how the league fared against other leagues.

We would take the records of every team out-of-conference schedule, add those together and end up with the league's out-of-conference record.

Finally, we would look at each league's bowl record. Again, we would add up every win and loss recorded by a team in that league during bowl season and that would be the league's bowl record.

The bowl record would be valued the most, followed by the out-of-conference record and rounded out by the overall record.

With all of those records computed we would then average them out as follows: The bowl records would be multiplied by three, the out-of-conference records multiplied by two, and the overall records would stay the same.

Then we add them all together and divide by six to find out what each league's average record is.

The league inside the BCS with the worst average record would fall out of the BCS and the team outside the BCS with the best record would climb into the BCS.

It may seem crazy, but it's the fairest way to satisfy both sides of the argument. All of the bowl games would still be played, non-BCS schools would have a chance to move into the BCS with their leagues every year, and every game of the college football season would still matter just as much as it does now.

Want to be spotted?  
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IT'S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock's Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author's name,

year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author's name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckview@mailbox.sc.edu.



# Designers share work at Pecha Kucha

Gathering of local creative talent makes one exciting night of discovery and discussion for artists and audiences alike

Ellen Meder  
ASSISTANT MIX EDITOR

Pecha Kucha is not a sushi roll, an ancient martial art or an explicit act. Rather, Pecha Kucha is Japanese for “small talk” and is properly pronounced quickly as “p-cha-k-cha.” Tuesday night, Columbia’s Nickelodeon Theatre hosted the city’s first ever Pecha Kucha night, bringing together the capital city’s creatives and designers to simply talk.

Founded six years ago in Tokyo, by architects for architects, the non-profit Pecha Kucha phenomenon has spread to 247 cities worldwide, with the singular goal of creating social gatherings for designers and creative people to inspire others with their latest projects among friends. Although very structured, Pecha Kucha has simple rules. Each presenter gets to share 20 slides for a total of six minutes and 20 seconds of talk time.

The Columbia event kicked off with a special video message from the Tokyo founders, in which Astrid Klein joked that the format is in place simply because “architects will go on and on and talk forever with you don’t give them rules.”

Bob Wertz, an adjunct design professor in the School of Journalism and one of the organizers of the event, began introducing the seven speakers with a few funky biographical facts at about 8:20 p.m., after the video and the explanation of the setup.

The group of about 50 young adults, most giving off a hip — but not hipster — vibe, were completely engaged from the start with Ryan Cockrell of Pour It Now, a non-profit dedicated to building skate parks in Columbia and Charleston, and recently Blythewood. Though not your typical designer, Cockrell explained that skateboarding is a self-expressive performance art and that a park itself can positively transform undesirable areas in a city.

Next up was Nick Wilson of Half & Half (a poster design and printing company in Five Points) who used a “random” audience member to illustrate the lengthy and detailed process he and his wife and business partner Sarah go through when incorporating all of the ridiculous requests of their clients, which have included musical acts like Dave Matthews Band, Neko Case, Gomez and Grizzly Bear.

Asheley Scott of Studio 2 L R represented the roots of architecture in Pecha Kucha and gave a calculated and compelling presentation on the importance of details in architecture and how tiny parts of a whole can transform a space as well as improve people’s lives.

After a 15-minute beer break for the audience, the wild and random Larry Thacker of Cyberwoven, a Vista web design company, got the audience energized with his hilarious presentation about his work with interns this past summer, which included many a joke, many a swig from his Guinness and quite a number of laughter-drawing expletives.

Freelance graphic designer Philip Caolie not only explained his inspirations, from Julia Child and Bob Vila to Andy Warhol’s pop art and Vogue covers, but also showed his intricate creative process as well. His series of Halloween party teaser posters that featured Charlie Brown characters with a more sinister grizzly overlay were witty and entertaining.

Ryon Edwards, a self-declared typography freak, shared his photography study of an abandoned green chair near his work, documenting its changes — from upside down to broken down — for over a year, even noting the several props that joined it (a hub cab and a 40-ounce liquor bottle after New Year’s, just to name a few).

The last trio came from Mad Monkey, a motion design company, enlightening the audience on the many steps from 2D ideas to the art of adding animation (not to mention the computer crash formula and the amount of Chinese food that fuels their madness) that go into clips such as their work for the South Carolina lottery.

Guests eagerly picked up their complimentary posters on the way out and animatedly



chatted about the talent and enthusiasm they had seen.

With the idea being tossed around in two separate creative circles for over eight months, Wertz and Todd Stewart (of Mad Monkey) merged their efforts over the summer and zeroed in on the Nickelodeon as the perfect venue. Wertz came upon the idea when Marius Valdes, a design professor at USC Upstate, presented the concept to the local chapter of the design coalition AIGA, while Stewart was invited to Charleston’s first Pecha Kucha night in November 2008.

“I saw it and was so incredibly impressed and blown away with the talent and I thought that Columbia needs that,” Stewart said. “We just wanted to bring that energy to Columbia and showcase that talent that’s here.”

With plans to continue the event quarterly, Wertz and Stewart intend on using the Nickelodeon once again in January. Hopefully they will build up enough audience that when the theatre moves to its larger venue in the fall, Pecha Kucha night will need the extra seating. Though there is a heavy bent toward incorporating designers into the speaking positions and audience seats, the stunning works and presentations are intriguing for all.

“We will keep looking for someone who would show something that you wouldn’t typically see in your daily life,” Stewart said.

Comments on this story?  
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# Converge delivers brutal ‘Axe To Fall’

*Band comes into their own on new album combining musical talent, innovative punk/alternative sound*

Michael Wunderlich  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Axe To Fall  
NOW IN STORES

★★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Artist: Converge

To listen to punk rock and heavier alternative music and not know the legendary Converge’s trademark gravely guitars — spewing forth over vocals strewn about like glass shards — is to enjoy British literature and not know who Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is.

The band, through their violent and chaotic brand of music, has risen as one of the most respected and adored heavier acts to date.

Their latest firestorm, “Axe To Fall,” is another step in the evolution of the band and, at this point, is their finest hour.

While the previous two albums, “You Fail Me” and “No Heroes,” saw the band refining the controlled madness

that has become their signature sound, Converge opens fire on the first track of “Axe” and doesn’t stop until it wrings out the last note.

The first track, “Dark Horse,” displays the band functioning on all cylinders.

Guitarist Kurt Ballaou’s manic and frenzied riffing is highlighted by the metallic lead crashing all around the rhythm of drummer Ben Koller and bassist Nate Newton.

Jacob Bannon’s cacophonous vocals force themselves to be heard through the gritty mix on the title track.

The album — produced by Ballaou at his home studio in Massachusetts — carries more weight than 2006’s “Heroes.”

The low end provided by Newton is immediately more noticeable, reminding one of 2004’s “You Fail Me.”

The band approached this album with a more collaborative goal in mind.

Such notable names as John Pettibone of Himsa, Brad Fickeisen from The Red Chord and others appear throughout the album with the same frequency as cameo appearances in rap songs.

However, this album feels as focused and vicious as any Converge album has, the guest appearances only enhancing the songs that feature them.

While every song seems to capture and amaze in its own way, the true monster track of this album comes at the very end of the album in “Wretched World.”

Converge has gone down this road before with other albums — in songs like, “You Fail Me” and “Grim Heart/Black Rose” — but never has achieved something of this magnitude.

The droning guitar lines coupled with the woeful delivery by Bannon and others create a morose sonic



Courtesy of Converge  
Converge focuses and evolves alternative sound on “Axe.”

landscape that leaves the listener no choice but to succumb to the steady assault of noise.

As a whole, “Axe to Fall” delivers the total package from Converge.

Breakneck tempos, glittering and mangled guitar leads and wretched vocals clash together to create a unified sound, placing Converge once again amongst the immortals.

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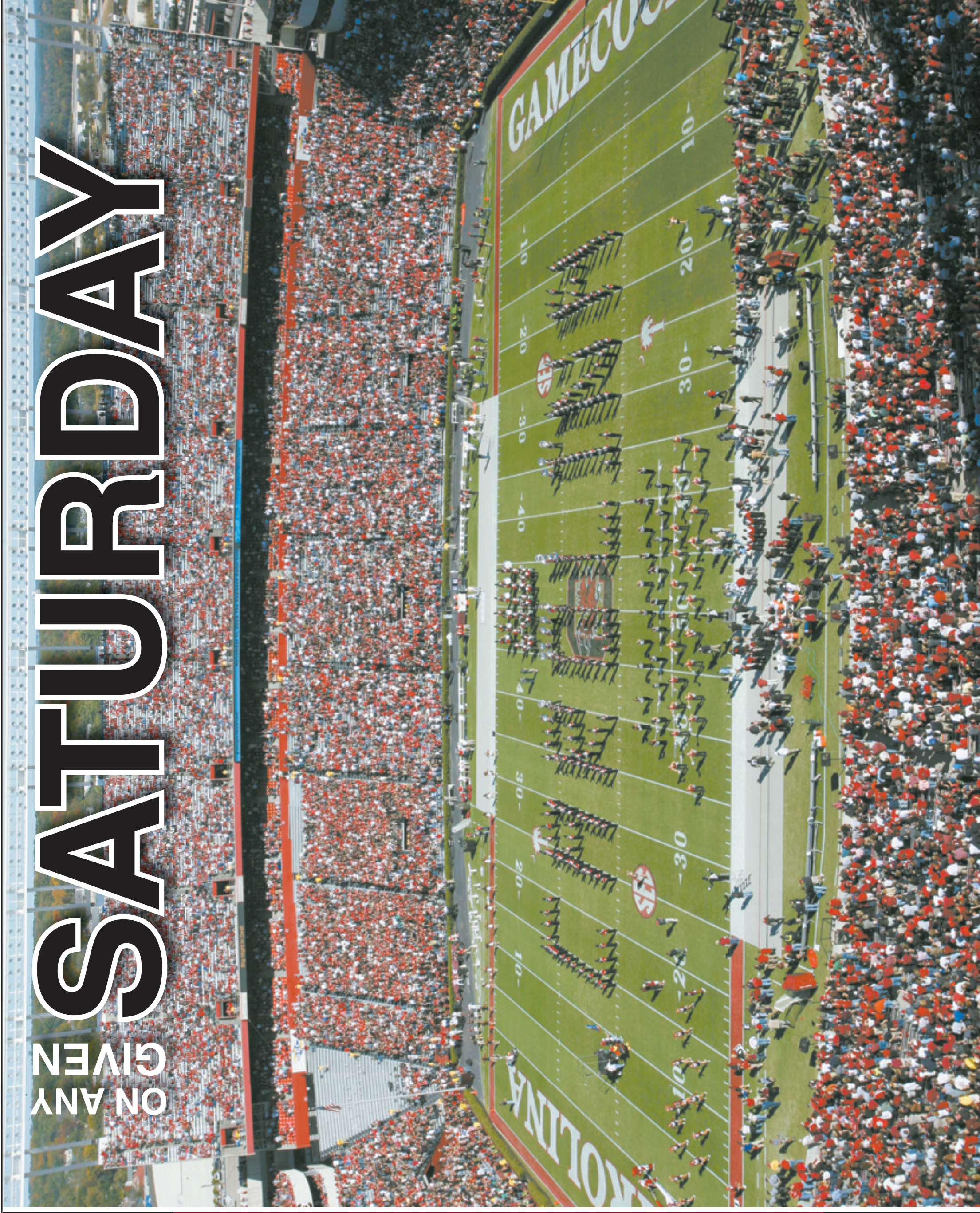
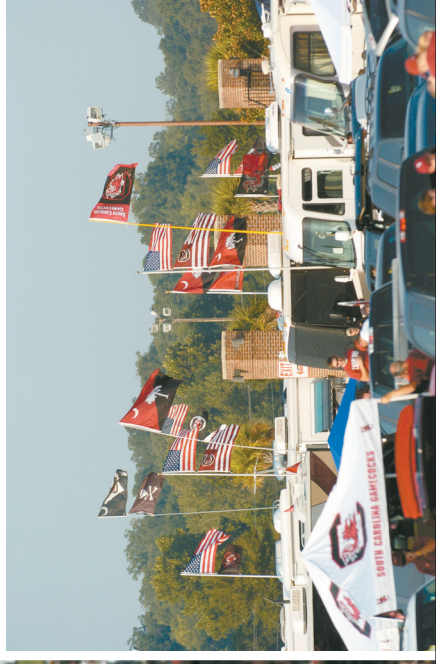
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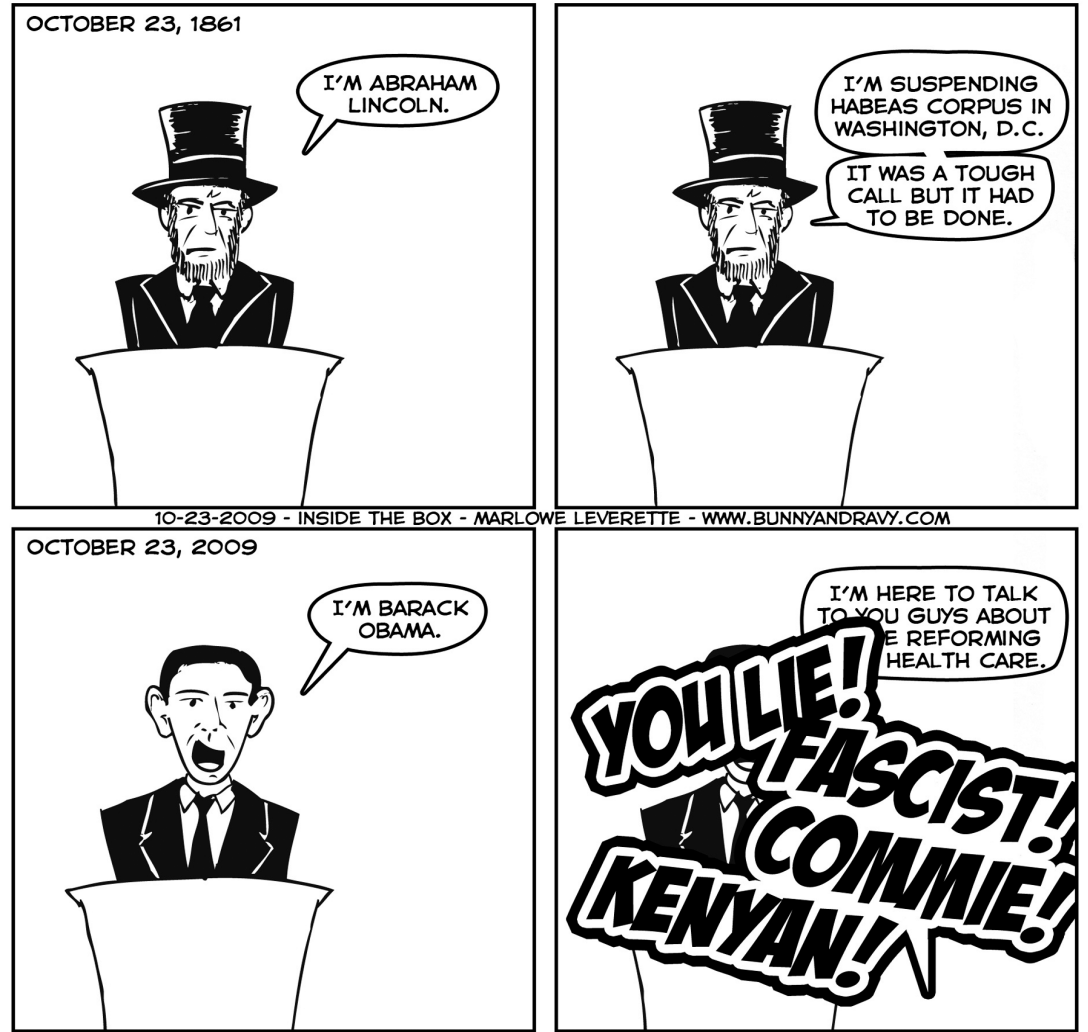
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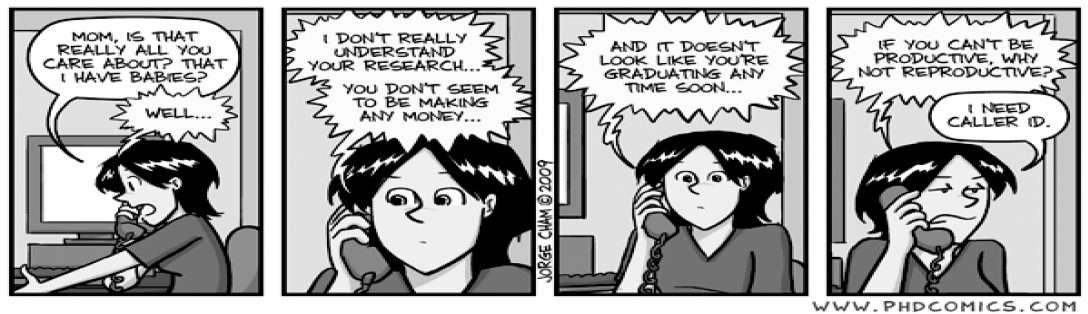
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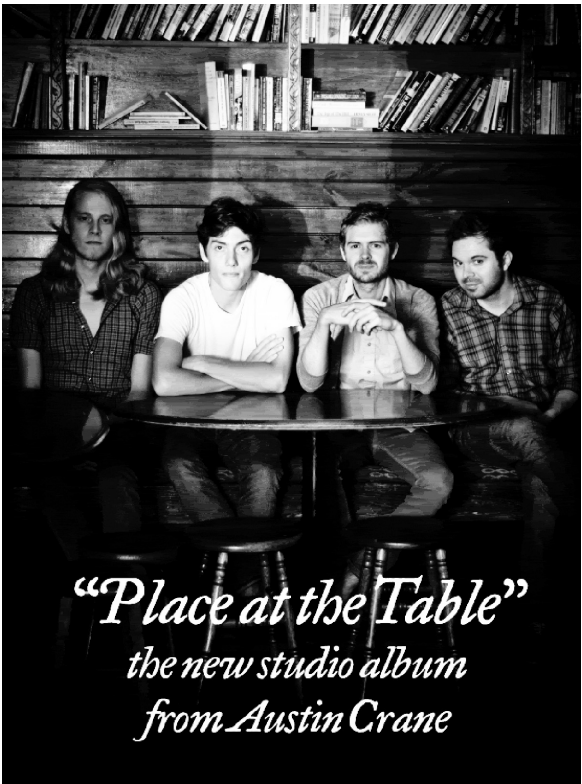
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PhD ♦ By Jorge Chan



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7:30 p.m., \$10 Cover w/ CD  
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**CAPITALISM: A LOVE STORY**  
3, 5:30, 8 p.m., \$6.50  
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**MIXXD DJ DANCE NITE**  
8 p.m., free  
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

**HANNAH MILLER**  
7 p.m., \$5  
The White Mule, 1530 Main St.

## TOMORROW

**DIGNAN, THE ROCKETBOYS, WINSTON AUDIO, CALCULATOR**  
7:30 p.m., \$8  
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

**THE NOISE, THE NEW YORK DISCO VILLAINS, LAMB HANDLER**  
8 p.m., \$3  
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

**WALLACE AND GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT**  
10 a.m., \$6.50  
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

## HOROSCOPES



**ARIES** This won't be your best day, but it can bring beneficial changes your way. Use power wisely.

**TAURUS** You feel like you can't do anything right. Obviously, that's not true. Begin simple projects today.

**GEMINI** You can't stay in bed all day, but you may wish you had when others push your buttons. Things improve tomorrow.

**CANCER** If passion is your goal, you're on the right track. Persuasion works both ways, so don't take charge completely.

**LEO** An older person tells you what needs to be done. Be sure you understand the project before you take the first step.

**VIRGO** This is a good time to do your research. Homework pays off in school, as it does in other pursuits.

**LIBRA** This would be a good day to stay home. You could take care of quite a few personal things. Avoid conflict at work.

**SCORPIO** You move into your own romantic emotional space. Bring someone else along and you'll make memories.

**SAGITTARIUS** You have a hard time listening to others now. They babble and don't get anywhere. Take independent action.

**CAPRICORN** An older person sets up a roadblock. At first you think you can't pass. By day's end, you're on another highway.

**AQUARIUS** Whatever you have in the back of your mind, keep it there today. This isn't the time to try to convince others.

**PISCES** Make changes on a practical level as necessary. They don't have to be big changes in order to be effective.

## Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

10/23/09

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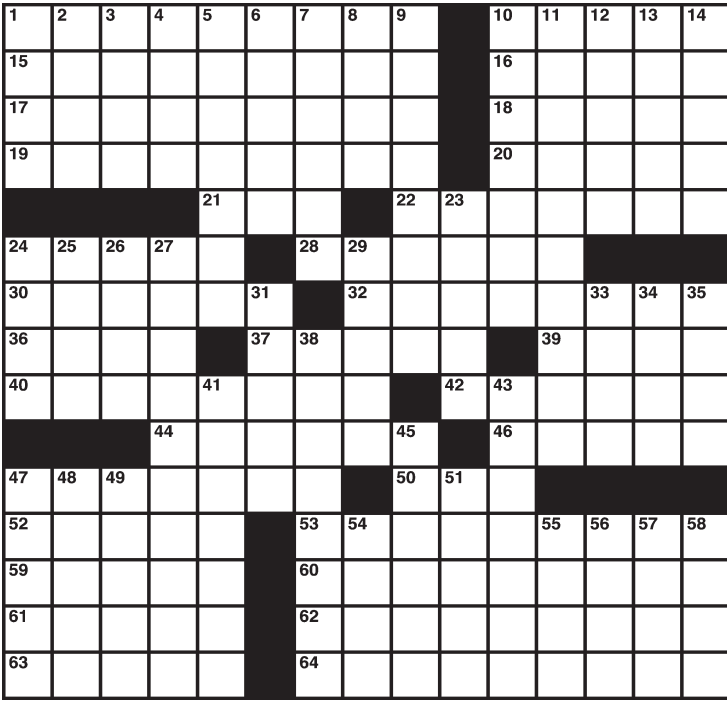
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### ACROSS

- 1 War and more
- 10 R.E.M. vocalist Michael
- 15 Strain
- 16 Turkic inhabitant of Russia
- 17 Place with trays
- 18 Director Kurosawa
- 19 Aide's job
- 20 Doctor's orders
- 21 Rolls on the lawn
- 22 Hard to nail down
- 24 Social blunder
- 28 Eritrea's capital
- 30 Ness et al.
- 32 Cosmetic surgeries
- 36 Vegan entrée
- 37 Imported cheeses
- 39 Cajun pod
- 40 Sherry, often
- 42 Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show costar
- 44 Grab before someone else does
- 46 It merged with Kmart in 2005
- 47 Film that's out of order?
- 50 PC panic button
- 52 Mammal of Madagascar
- 53 Seeking advancement at any cost
- 59 Take out \_\_: borrow money
- 60 Eastern Canadian province grouping, with "the"
- 61 Saltpeter, to a Brit
- 62 Smithsonian collection
- 63 Spirited horse
- 64 Nielsen ratings
- DOWN
- 1 Caesar's partner
- Imogene
- 2 Actress Gardner et al.
- 3 Court call makers



### Solution for 10/22/09



- Fox
- 35 Speaks
- 38 One with immunity
- 41 Buried
- 43 One leading a spartan lifestyle
- 45 Marine bird
- 47 Blueprints
- 48 Ignited again
- 49 Cry on cue, say
- 51 U.S.: county :: U.K. : \_\_
- 54 Moniker
- 55 Flaky mineral
- 56 Latin 101 verb
- 57 Colleague of Lane and Olsen
- 58 Those, to Teresa

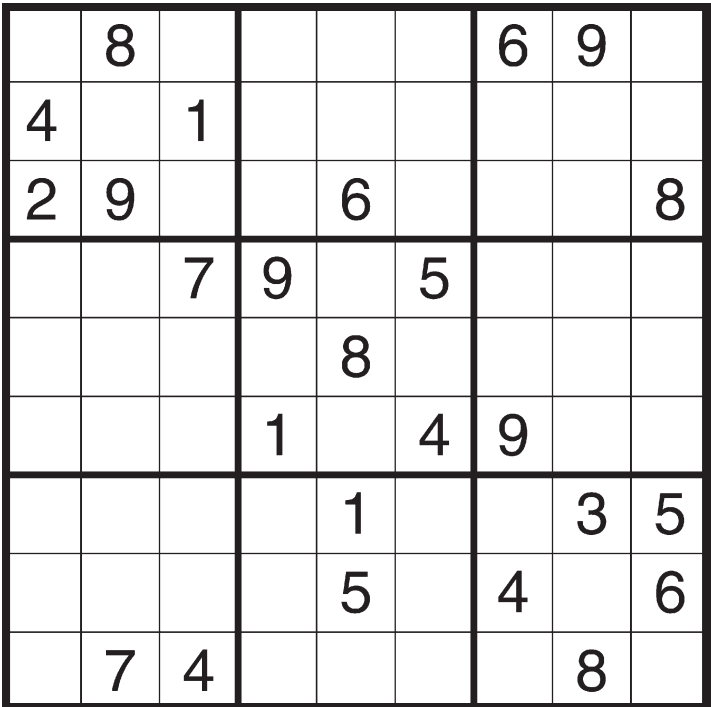
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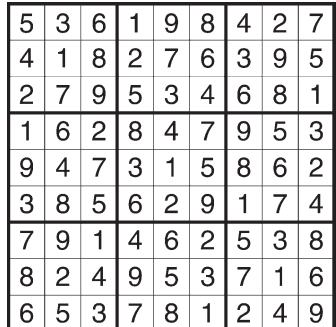
10/23/09



Level 1 2 3 4

**How to Play**  
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### Solution from 10/22/09





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# SEEING STARS



2007



2008

## Carolina tries to shake off consecutive losses to underdog Commodores

James Kratch  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

First in academics, last in the SEC. That has long been the calling card of Vanderbilt University. With 6,400 undergraduates, the smallest student body amongst the conference's 12 member schools and the designation as the league's only private institution, Vandy has always whipped the competition in the classroom, and taken a whipping between the white lines.

Don't tell that to the South Carolina Gamecocks. For two straight years, the team that hasn't been ranked in the final national polls since the Truman administration, the team that hadn't had a winning season in over a quarter of a century, the team that hadn't won a bowl game in over half a century, the team that has had 47 losing seasons since the end of World War II, has beaten USC.

"They outplayed us the last two years; that's why they beat us, simple as that," USC coach Steve Spurrier said. "They outplayed us, outcoached us, outhit us, 'outcourageous-ed us, whatever you want to call it."

It started in 2007; what seemed like a pushover game became a nightmare, as Vandy raced out to a 17-0 lead on the then-No. 6 Gamecocks, silencing a packed Williams-Brice Stadium with a 17-6 upset – the school's biggest upset since 1937, first win over Carolina since 1999, and the first against a Spurrier coached team in 15 tries. The woes became magnified last fall, when the Gamecocks traveled to Nashville, and fell 24-17 on national television. Now, with Vanderbilt returning to Columbia for the first time since '07, the unpleasant past is dragged back to the forefront. USC has only one way to put it behind them for good — win.

"We're able to beat these guys and we know we can beat them,"

sophomore receiver Jason Barnes said. "We've got that in our head, and we can do it."

It would seem reasonable that Carolina might feel a bit of pressure. The Gamecocks insist they don't feel any at all.

"I wouldn't say [there's] pressure. Our next game is always our biggest game. We have lost the last two years to them," senior center Lemuel Jeanpierre said. "They were both very disappointing."

Barnes agrees.

"I don't think anybody's feeling any pressure. We're all going out and practicing hard. Coach said we were going to have harder practices this week so we're all going out and practicing harder," Barnes said. "Everybody's trying to do their assignment and go out and play assignment perfect football. We can't beat ourselves."

Many have questioned if Carolina has lost these last two years because they simply didn't take Vanderbilt seriously. If one was to ask the players and coaches, that sentiment may be echoed.

"I think that their ranking really got to some of [the USC] players' heads," Ajiboye said. "We didn't practice as hard. We thought that the game was supposed to be won instead of earned."

However, the "looking ahead" disorder doesn't seem to be a problem this time. All week long, it has been stressed – USC isn't taking Vandy lightly.

"They are a good, tough bunch of guys who make very few mistakes, and if you're going to beat them, you got to beat them," Spurrier said. "They are not good at beating themselves."

Part of what made the 2007 game so infamous was the aftereffect. The loss was the first of a five-game slide, which saw USC fall from a nationally ranked 6-1 team to a 6-6 team without a bowl invitation. The Gamecocks don't see it that way.

"I don't think anything after that loss really sent us into a tailspin. There was no specific thing you can point out that made us all go down," Jeanpierre said. "I feel like we were all still working hard. We were still out there fighting."

Still, the thought lingers. Unlike last year, when the Vanderbilt game was the second of the season, this year's comes at the same time as the 2007 meeting – seven games in. Lose, and it will seem like déjà vu all over again. Spurrier is confident though that this team is above such a collapse.

"Every year is a new team. It's not the same guys as two years ago or even last year," he said. "We have a whole bunch of new starters on offense and defense. The attitude has been very good. The team spirit has been good."

Talk only goes so far. To break the Vandy hex, Carolina will have to perform on the field and reverse the woes that have plagued them against the Commodores the past two seasons. Step one is winning the turnover battle. Carolina is -4 in that department the past two games.

"We had more yards than they did last year, but that does not determine the winner. I think we had more turnovers each of the last two years and that's one big reason [for losing]," Spurrier said. "We are going

to try and play a little bit smarter as far as the turnovers are concerned. That has been the problem in our losses."

USC also has to get the job done at the end. The fourth quarter has been rough for Carolina against Vandy; a valiant defensive effort by the Commodores protecting the lead in 2007, and a game-winning drive stealing the contest in '08.

"We just know that we had to fight, scratch and claw and hang in there at the end of the game. That's exactly what we did the last two times we played against them," Vanderbilt coach Bobby Johnson said. "We played well in the fourth quarter of both of those contests and that's why we pulled them out."

On paper, this game shouldn't be much of a contest. The Commodores are 2-5; 0-4 in the SEC. However, given the history, Carolina can't afford to think like that.

"We all know the importance of the game. Vanderbilt has outplayed us for two years; that's why we've lost to them," Spurrier said. "They kicked our tails and outplayed us. And if they outplay us Saturday night, there's a chance they'll beat us again."

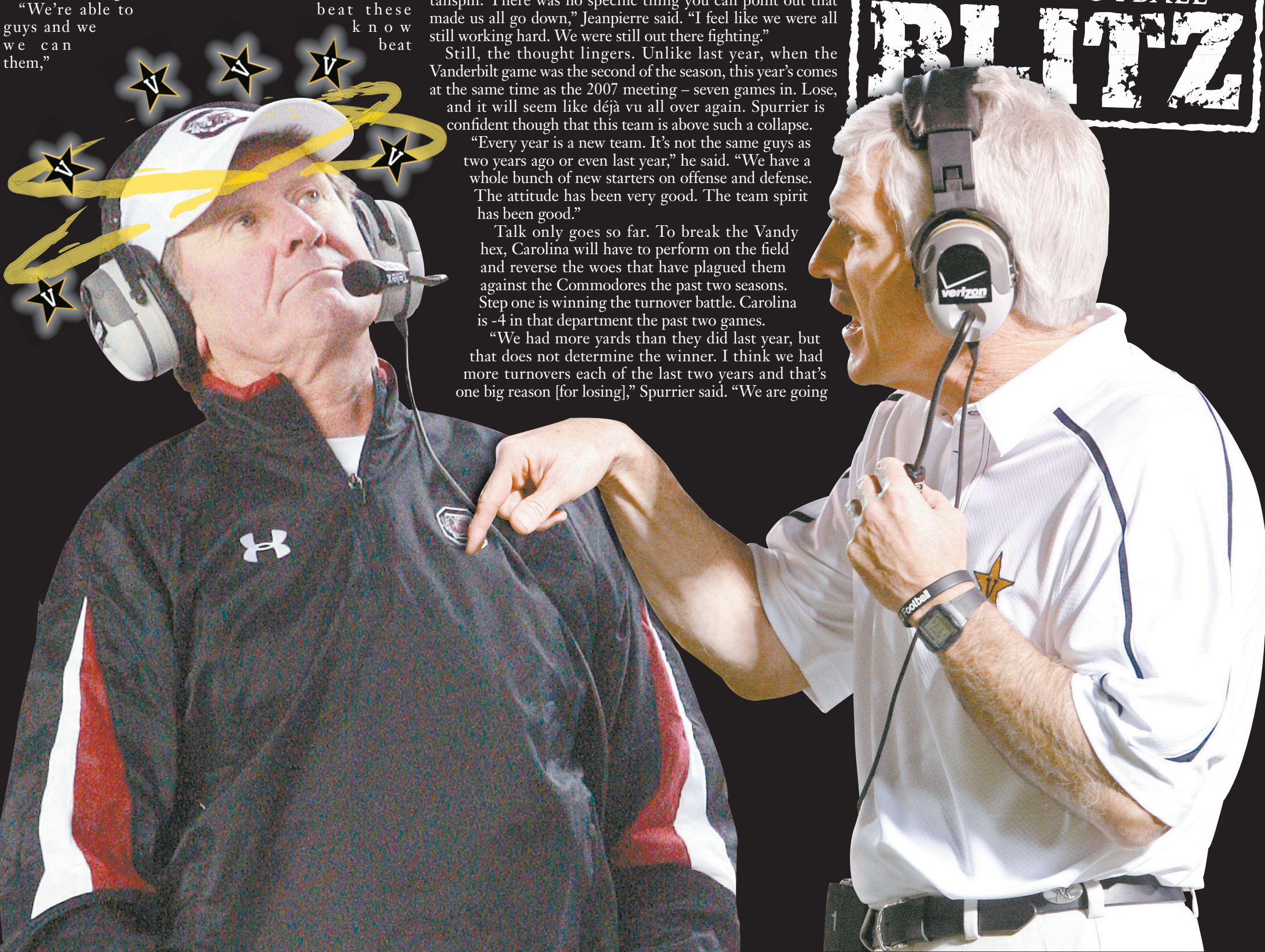
Just like the past two years, Vandy will not be the favorite. Just like the last two years, Vandy has a chip on its shoulder.

"They have something to prove. For the underdogs, they can be dangerous," Ajiboye said. "They feel like they have something to prove and they are going to come to this stadium and play it all out."

It all seems eerily similar to the past, but there's one thing USC thinks they can make different.

The outcome.

Comments on this story? E-mail [sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu)





# Barnes set to take over starting role

**Sophomore wide receiver to start above injured Brown**

Chris Bilko  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

A hush fell over Bryant-Denny Stadium. It was the brand of quiet only a vicious, injury-inducing hit could produce.

Just moments earlier, the crowd had witnessed South Carolina senior wide receiver Moe Brown get crushed by two defenders when diving for a first down in the red zone. About 15 minutes later, Brown was being carted off the field with his thumbs raised to a chorus of “Let’s go Moe” from the USC marching band. Brown would later be diagnosed with a concussion, and his recollection of the event was understandably hazy.

“I really didn’t know what had happened at all,” said Brown. “I was asleep. I was kind of in a dream state.”

It is the precautionary procedure by team doctors to

make concussion victims sit out for at least two weeks after sustaining the injury. Because of this, Brown won’t be in uniform on game day for the first time since he was eight years old.

“I would love to play, especially against Vandy because they have whooped up on us the past two years,” said Brown. “But, I am looking out for my best interest and they say it is not good for me to play.”

Brown’s experience is the anchor to an otherwise young receiving corp. He will have to do his best coach impression if he wants USC to have a successful game.

“Moe will be on the sideline being a good cheerleader for our team this week,” said head coach Steve Spurrier.

Brown should be back for the Tennessee game next week, but for now he will be replaced in the starting lineup by sophomore Jason Barnes. Barnes had a great game against Alabama after substituting for Brown. He was a pass catching machine, accumulating six grabs for 46 yards, with all of them coming in the second half.

“We (the receivers) pride ourselves on the game coming down to us,” said Barnes. “We feel like we have to make

plays to win every game this season.”

Barnes and the Gamecock offense will be matching up against a very good Vanderbilt defensive squad on Saturday. Currently, the Commodores rank sixth in the SEC in total defense and second in the conference in pass defense.

Leading Vanderbilt’s secondary is senior cornerback Myron Lewis. Lewis leads the team with three interceptions and provides the leadership to a very young and inexperienced secondary.

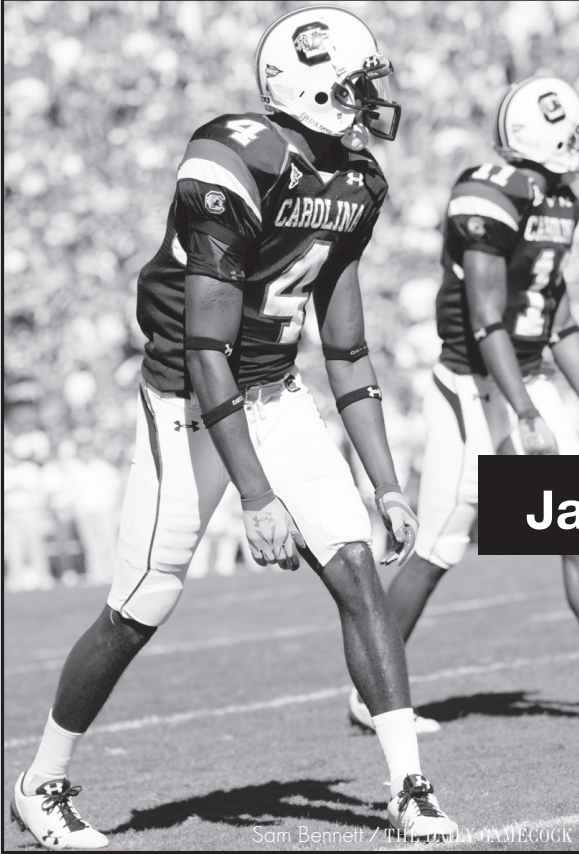
“They make few mistakes (on defense),” said Spurrier. “They’re in position where they’re supposed to be. You have to execute to beat them.”

To defeat Vandy, the Gamecocks will have to limit the turnovers that have plagued them in the last two games against the Commodores. In those contests, USC lost a total of two fumbles and five interceptions.

“Hopefully we’ll be prepared to play our best one of the year, said Spurrier. “That’s what it will take to beat Vandy Saturday night.”

Comments on this story? E-mail [sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu)

HEAD 2 HEAD



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

OFFENSE

VS.

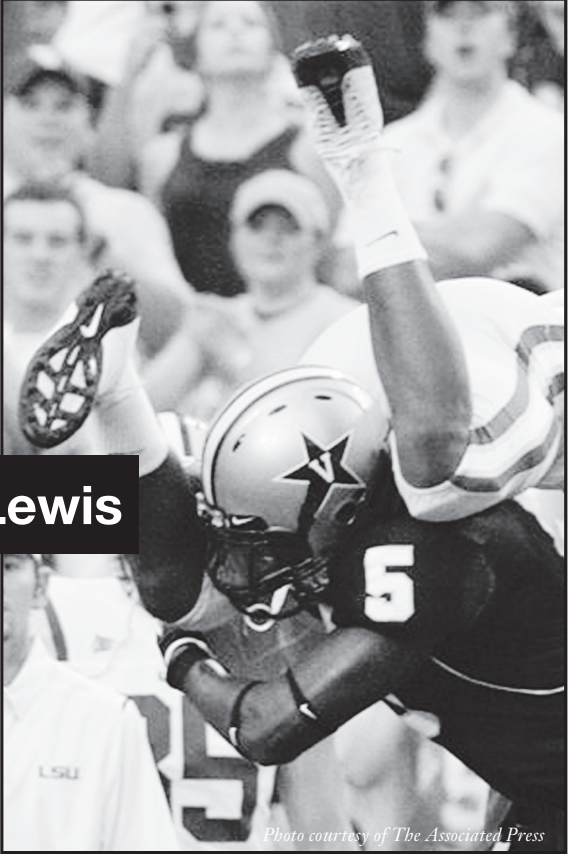


Photo courtesy of The Associated Press

Jason Barnes

Myron Lewis

# Stewart prepares for mobile quarterback

**Vanderbilt’s dual-threat Smith to test Carolina secondary**

Justin Warlick  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

For Carolina to end the losing streak against Vanderbilt, the USC secondary has to stop quarterback Larry Smith whether through the air or on the ground. While his numbers aren’t impressive stats-wise -- three touchdowns compared to seven interceptions -- what makes him so dangerous is his running ability, where he has rushed for two touchdowns’s, and ran for over 100 yards this season.

Senior safety Darian Stewart has the task this week of stopping him, and with a young secondary around him, Stewart has to be the one to step up, and make the big plays

for the USC secondary, for the Gamecocks to end the two game losing streak, and continue the momentum of a great season heading into a tough rest of the schedule. Stewart has proven able to step up and make big plays when it counts the most, and with his experience playing the spur and safety position the past two seasons, he has proven to be a versatile athlete who should have the speed to keep with Smith in a foot race. But is the game plan still the same for say a scrambler vs. a pocket quarterback? “We approach every week the same” said Stewart “we approach it all the same way.” Stewart, who has seen the most experience against this Vanderbilt team compared to the rest of the secondary, will have to be the watchful eye for them in play in case Smith may run out of the pocket. The Vanderbilt offense has struggled this season, failing to put points on the board, but the approach for the defense is still the same regardless of the offense rankings. “We really don’t think about it,” said

Stewart on the Vanderbilt offense struggles. “We just get out there and compete we don’t care who it is.”

While the losing streak does come up during practice, “we just want to put that on our shoulders and carry that into the game” Stewart said. The last thing the Gamecocks need is for Larry Smith to be running loose in the secondary if they want to beat the Commodores. The defense should be ready to play on Saturday. With the leadership abilities of Stewart, and the talented young secondary surrounding him, Vanderbilt will have a hard problem moving the ball through the air, and the ground.

Coach Steve Spurrier just wants his defense to remember this plan for containing Smith, “we just got to corral him up.”

Comments on this story? E-mail [sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu)

HEAD 2 HEAD



Sam Bennett / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

DEFENSE

VS.



Mark Humphrey / The Associated Press

Darian Stewart

Larry Smith



# BCS Busters set for primetime clash

*Horned Frogs, Cougars prepare to square off with championship implications on line*

Ryan Velasquez  
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

## No. 10 TCU @ No. 16 BYU



Mike Stone / The Associated Press

In last year's showdown, TCU handed BYU its first loss, knocking them out of the BCS picture. How the tables have turned. Entering week eight, the Horned Frogs hold a perfect 6-0 record and are in the running to go to the first BCS bowl game in school history. Boasting the nation's No. 4 defense, TCU has held opponents to just over 13 points per game this season. The Cougars, on the other hand, enter this week's matchup as the potential spoiler. Since its brutal loss to Florida State, BYU has won four straight and currently ranks sixth in the country in points per game. Don't look for much scoring this week, however, as TCU will hold off the Cougars' offense and stay in the running for a BCS bowl.

**The Pick:** TCU 20, BYU 14



Andy Martin / The Associated Press

## No. 7 Iowa @ Michigan State

The Hawkeyes travel to East Lansing with a chance to leave 8-0, a record they've never had in their 120-year history. Led by a stout defense that leads the country in interceptions, they head into this matchup looking to extend their lead in the Big Ten and keep their national title hopes alive. After losing three of its first four, Michigan State has bounced back to win three in a row and can steal Iowa's top spot in the conference standings with a win Saturday. The Spartans have won four straight against the Hawkeyes at home. That streak will end tomorrow, as Iowa's defense will get the job done on the road for the second week in a row.

**The Pick:** Iowa 24, Michigan State 10

## Tennessee @ No. 1 Alabama

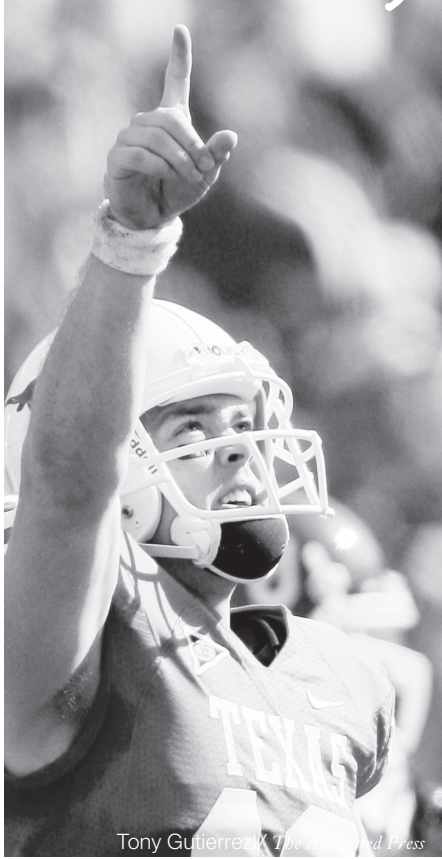
It's safe to say that Nick Saban hasn't forgotten Lane Kiffin's jabs about his recruiting during the offseason. Leading up to this game, Tennessee made a request to wear its orange jerseys, as it was once a tradition for these two to wear their home colors during their annual showdown. The SEC gave its approval. Alabama didn't. The Tide will be very motivated in this one after a turnover, penalty laden night last week. Look for the defense to thrive against Tennessee's inconsistent offense and shaky play at quarterback. On the other side of the ball, a four carry, 1-yard performance against the Vols last season is still fresh in Mark Ingram's mind. Expect a big difference this year.

**The Pick:** Alabama 48, Tennessee 6



Dave Martin / The Associated Press

## No. 3 Texas @ Missouri



Tony Gutierrez / The Associated Press

Despite another shaky performance, Colt McCoy and the Longhorns are still undefeated and control their own destiny in the national title race. Traveling to Missouri, they have a chance to extend their five-game winning streak against the Tigers, who have struggled since opening conference play. Texas' main concern will be staying focused on the matchup at hand rather than looking ahead to next week's showdown at No. 14 Oklahoma State. The Longhorns will again start slowly, but will eventually be too much for the rebuilding Tigers.

**The Pick:** Texas 31, Missouri 13

## Oklahoma @ No. 25 Kansas

The Sooners are staring oblivion in the face as the team that lost just one game a year ago suddenly finds itself with a 3-3 record. It doesn't get any easier for Oklahoma, as 2008 Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford has chosen season-ending shoulder surgery after sustaining hard hits in both the BYU and Texas games. Freshman quarterback Landry Jones has been good, but he won't be enough to beat the 5-1 Jayhawks.

**The Pick:** Kansas 24, Oklahoma 20



David Zalubowski / The Associated Press

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# 5 QUESTIONS WITH THE ENEMY

Vanderbilt Sports Editor breaks down Saturday's SEC contest



David Rutz  
Vanderbilt  
Hustler Sports  
Editor

## 1 Does Vanderbilt think they can keep its streak against USC going?



As a team, Vanderbilt definitely believes it can keep its streak against South Carolina going. The Commodores have been awful in losing five of their last six games, including that mind-boggling loss to Army, but they haven't lost confidence in themselves. Almost all of the big playmakers in last year's bowl team are back, and they know they can hang with almost any team in the conference thanks to a strong defense, including a particularly solid secondary. The main problem this season has obviously been offensive execution, and they think that if they can get the no-huddle to start producing consistently, then they can be a winning team again.

## 2 Why has Bobby Johnson been able to have so much success against Carolina?

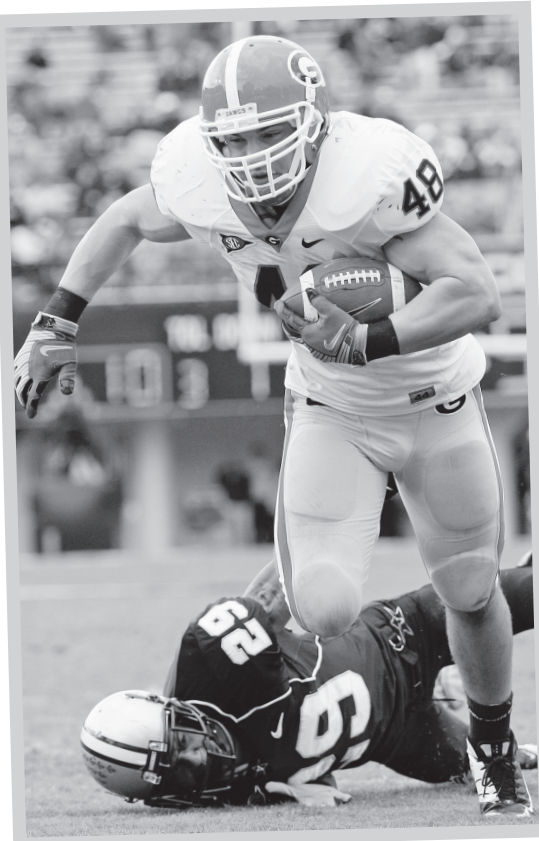
Johnson was able to finally win over his home state because his team played smashmouth defense and pounced on scoring opportunities when they presented themselves. In both victories the past two seasons, the Commodores turned South Carolina turnovers into points and kept pressure on Gamecock quarterbacks the entire game. Vanderbilt almost never wins games where it doesn't win the turnover margin, because it



simply doesn't have the offensive firepower to keep up otherwise. Also, the Commodores avoided penalties, while South Carolina had numerous false starts in the loss in Columbia in 2007 and had defensive holding calls extend a clinching Vanderbilt touchdown drive in 2008. Smart, disciplined football and pressure defense is what Johnson coaches, and the last two years it's been enough to notch solid wins over Steve Spurrier, who until recently had always owned Vanderbilt.

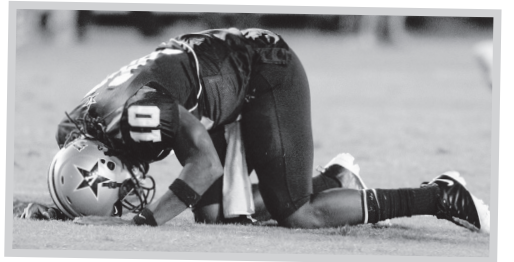
## 3 Can the Commodores put their struggles so far this year behind them?

That's a difficult question. So far they haven't, and the only complete game of football they've put together was in the season opener against woe-l Western Carolina. The Commodores are angry and frustrated, and their problems are compounded by the fact that they entered this season with lots of expectations for themselves after finally breaking through with a winning season last year. They are still practicing hard as ever, and since another bowl looks like a pipe dream at this point, they're still playing for pride. Like I said before, the question is not a lack of talent; this is the most talented team Vanderbilt has had in years. So I would say yes, absolutely they can put their struggles behind them. 'Can' is the operative word there.



## 4 Why has the offense struggled so mightily?

A lot of blame for this year's struggles has gone to quarterback Larry Smith, who has yet to complete at least half of his passes in a conference game this year, but there are problems beyond his on offense. Smith has certainly underachieved this year, and he has not only been inaccurate, but he also has lacked touch on shorter throws that require a little less speed and a little more precision. Throw in a young, untested group of receivers and it's a small wonder the passing attack has been so anemic. The run game has been generally unproductive, and Smith has rarely had much time to throw in the pocket. Also, the play-calling on the offensive side of the football has not put Commodore play-makers in position to succeed. It has been predictable and punchless, and the no-huddle offense Vanderbilt installed in the offseason has not led to quicker scoring, but rather to quicker 3-and-outs that has left Vanderbilt's defense breathless from spending so much time in the field. In our five losses, we've been outscored 37-10 in the fourth quarter. That's no coincidence; by then, the D has simply worn down.



## 5 Will the streak continue?



The streak won't continue, and it's not too hard to diagram why. The combination of Carolina's nasty, relentless defense, led by Eric Norwood, and the fact that the Commodores' 10 points against Georgia was the most they've scored in four conference games should tell the whole story. I can see Vanderbilt hanging in there for the first half, but unless we get off to an early lead for once, the Gamecocks will pull away in the end. I'll go with South Carolina, 27-10.

Comments on this story? E-mail [sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:sagckspt@mailbox.sc.edu)

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Tennessee @ Alabama  
Clemson @ Miami (FL)  
Penn State @ Michigan  
Oklahoma @ Kansas  
TCU @ BYU  
Iowa @ Michigan State  
Texas A&M @ Texas Tech  
Auburn @ LSU  
Vanderbilt @ USC  
Last Week's Standings:  
Overall:

  
**Chris Cox**  
Sports Editor  
  
Ole Miss  
Alabama  
Miami (FL)  
Penn State  
Kansas  
TCU  
Iowa  
Texas Tech  
LSU  
USC  
5-5  
(50-20)

  
**James Kratch**  
Assistant Sports Editor  
  
Ole Miss  
Alabama  
Miami (FL)  
Penn State  
Kansas  
BYU  
Iowa  
Texas Tech  
LSU  
USC  
7-3  
(48-22)

  
**Sam Davis**  
Staff Writer  
  
Ole Miss  
Alabama  
Miami (FL)  
Penn State  
Oklahoma  
BYU  
Michigan State  
Texas Tech  
LSU  
USC  
8-2  
(48-22)

  
**Morgan Reid**  
Staffer of the Week  
  
Arkansas  
Alabama  
Clemson  
Penn State  
Oklahoma  
BYU  
Iowa  
Texas A&M  
LSU  
USC  
5-5  
(45-25)

  
**Austin Collins**  
Reader of the Week  
  
Arkansas  
Alabama  
Miami (FL)  
Penn State  
Oklahoma  
TCU  
Iowa  
Texas Tech  
Auburn  
USC  
8-2  
(48-22)



## GAMEDAY 411

**No. 23 South Carolina (5-2, 2-2 SEC) vs. Vanderbilt (2-5, 0-4)**  
**Time:** 7 p.m.  
**Location:** Williams-Brice Stadium  
**TV:** ESPNU  
**Radio:** 107.5 FM in Columbia  
**Line:** USC -13

**Notes:** The Vanderbilt Commodores will not only be looking for their first conference win of the season on Saturday, but they'll look to do it against a South Carolina team that they've defeated two straight times. Vandy stunned then-No. 6 South Carolina 17-6 in 2007 before knocking the then-No. 24 Gamecocks 24-17 in 2008.

**Injury report:** For South Carolina, junior tight end Weslye Saunders will not start against Vanderbilt due to a nagging sprained ankle he suffered against South Carolina State. However, he is expected to see playing time. Freshman Justice Cunningham will start in his place. Long snapper Charles Turner may not play either, as coach Steve Spurrier noted that the junior has a slight concussion. Walk-on Matt Grooms may start in his place. For Vanderbilt, senior offensive tackle Thomas Welch may not play due to a sprained ankle. Sophomore tight end Austin Monahan is out for the season with a torn ACL.

**Parking:** Due to the South Carolina State Fair, Gamecock Club parking passes will not be honored for Saturday's game in the fairgrounds. The lots are open to the general public and are free of charge. Spaces will be given on a first come, first serve basis. The lots open at 8 a.m.

**Fair info:** Gamecock fans can receive free admission to the fair with any general admission ticket to the game. The time in which Carolina fans can use this promotion will be between 2 and 5 p.m.

**On the call:** Eric Collins, who called coach Steve Spurrier's first spring game as Carolina's head coach, will handle the play-by-play for Saturday's game. Brock Huard will serve as the color analyst. Huard served for a short time as the starting quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks.



## ROUNDUP

*News, notes for Saturday's league play*

Chris Cox  
SPORTS EDITOR

Arkansas (3-3, 1-3 SEC) @ Ole Miss (4-2, 1-2)  
Time: 12:21 ET  
TV: SEC Network  
Notes: After the Razorbacks suffered a heartbreaking 23-20 loss at Florida last weekend, the Southeastern Conference suspended the officials from the game for questionable penalties. The crew called a personal foul on Arkansas defensive lineman Malcolm Sheppard who seemed questionable at best. The flag came on the game-tying drive for the Gators. The same crew was involved in the controversial celebration penalty on Georgia wide receiver A.J. Greene in a loss to LSU in the closing minutes.



John Radoux / The Associated Press

Tennessee (3-3, 1-2) @ No. 1 Alabama (7-0, 4-0)  
Time: 12:30 ET  
TV: CBS  
Notes: The conference office's busy week continued, as league commissioner Mike Slive had to send out memos across the conference noting the rule on illegal use of tape. After USC coach Steve Spurrier questioned the use of Alabama's holder marking field goals and point-after attempts with tape. But Carolina wasn't done. Athletics Director Eric Hyman complained that the Crimson Tide used artificial noise on third downs- something USC was banned from doing in 2006. "We expect everyone to be on the same page starting Saturday," Slive said. "There are times when it's appropriate, and there are times when it's not appropriate, and that's what the memorandum clarifies."



Rogelio V. Solis / The Associated Press

Louisiana-Monroe (3-2) @ Kentucky (3-3, 1-3)  
Time: 7:00 ET  
TV: FSN  
Notes: It was a miraculous boost for the Wildcats when they knocked off Auburn in stunning fashion on the Plains last week 21-14. Suddenly, Kentucky looks like a team that will make a bowl game for the fourth consecutive year. Including Big Blue's matchup with ULM, Kentucky faces Mississippi State, Eastern Kentucky and Vanderbilt. But tomorrow's matchup may not be as easy as UK might think. They had to escape with just a two-point win when the teams met last season.



Butch Dill / The Associated Press

Auburn (5-2, 2-2) @ LSU (5-1, 3-1)  
Time: 7:30 ET  
TV: ESPN2  
Notes: The Auburn Tigers come into Saturday's contest reeling after consecutive losses to Arkansas and Kentucky, both of who combine for just a 6-6 overall record and 2-6 record in conference play. Head coach Gene Chizik is staring at his third straight loss as he takes his team to Tiger Stadium in a dreaded night game — a time when LSU doesn't seem to lose too often. It looks as though hiring a coach with a 5-19 overall record wasn't too smart after all.



Butch Dill / The Associated Press

No. 2 Florida (6-0, 4-0) @ Mississippi State (3-4, 1-2)  
Time: 7:30 ET  
TV: ESPN  
Notes: The national cameras will be in the house as former Florida offensive coordinator Dan Mullen hosts his old Gators in a primetime matchup in Starkville. Additionally, Mullen becomes the first Meyer assistant coach to face his mentor. The two have been inseparable since their days at Notre Dame. The Bulldogs have been improving week-by-week and can match their win total from a year ago if they knock off the No. 2 Gators tomorrow night. While they may not get the upset this Saturday, don't be surprised if Mullen and Co. pull one before the season is up.



Mark Humphrey / The Associated Press